

**ARTICLE OF FOOTWEAR WITH A REPLACABLE
GROUND-ENGAGING MEMBER AND METHOD OF
ATTACHING THE GROUND-ENGAGING MEMBER**

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

- good*
5/4/05
- [01] This application is a Continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/988,737 filed November 20, 2001, ^{now Patent 6,722,061} which is hereby incorporated by reference.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

- [02] The present invention relates to an article of footwear having one or more ground-engaging members, especially an athletic shoe having one or more selectively alterable ground-engaging members (such as spikes, cleats, etc.).

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

- [03] It is generally known to provide one or more protruding ground-engaging members on the sole of a shoe, especially on the sole of an athletic shoe for activities such as golf, soccer, track, baseball, and "American-style" football. Such ground-engaging members are variously known in the art as cleats, spikes, studs, leaves, blades, triangles, nubs, etc., and generally serve to increase traction between the shoe and the ground surface.
- [04] Furthermore, it is conventionally known to use particular types of ground-engaging members for certain types of playing surfaces. For example, molded cleats made from hard rubber or a thermoplastic material are commonly used on hard/firm natural ground surfaces (e.g., hard dirt). Relatively smaller molded rubber nubs are commonly used on artificial turf and the like. Also, relatively thin spikes are conventionally used in golf and in track.
- [05] For activities taking place on soft ground (e.g., wet fields, soggy grass, or muddy ground), it is generally known to use removable ground-engaging members. This is done to enable the user to use differed sized ground-engaging members based on the type of field being played on, and the condition of the field. Conventional removable